

What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting a position of a mobile robot, comprising:
receiving an infrared signal and a ultrasonic signal and calculating a time
5 difference between the received infrared signal and the ultrasonic signal; and
detecting a position of a mobile robot on the basis of the calculated time
difference and a distance value previously stored between ultrasonic wave
generators generating the ultrasonic signals.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of calculating the time
difference, respective times at which the ultrasonic signals have been received are
measured on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a position of
15 the mobile robot comprises:
calculating a distance between the ultrasonic wave generators and the
mobile robot by multiplying a sound velocity to the calculated time difference
value; and

detecting the distance and angle between the ultrasonic wave generators
20 and the mobile robot on the basis of the calculated distance and the distance
value previously stored between the ultrasonic wave generators.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of detecting a position
of the mobile robot, the distance and angle of the mobile robot are detected
25 through a triangulation on the basis of the calculated distance value and the

distance value previously stored between the ultrasonic wave generators.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic signals have different frequencies.

5

6. A method for detecting a position of a mobile robot, comprising:
transmitting an infrared signal generated from a fixed infrared generator
and a ultrasonic signal generated from a fixed ultrasonic wave generator, to a
mobile robot;

10 calculating a time difference between the transmitted infrared signal and
the ultrasonic signal;

calculating each distance between the mobile robot and the ultrasonic
wave generators on the basis of the calculated time difference value; and

detecting a position of the mobile robot on the basis of the calculated
15 distance value and a distance value previously set between the ultrasonic wave
generators.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein, in the step of calculating the time
difference, the time at which the ultrasonic signals have been received is
20 measured on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the distance between the mobile
robot and the ultrasonic wave generators is calculated by multiplying a sound
velocity to the calculated time difference value.

25

9. The method of claim 6, wherein, in the step of detecting a position of the mobile robot, a distance and an angle between the ultrasonic wave generators and the mobile robot are detected on the basis of the calculated distance value and the distance value previously set between the ultrasonic wave
5 generators.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein, in the step of detecting a position of the mobile robot, a distance and an angle between the ultrasonic wave generators and the mobile robot are detected through a triangulation on the basis
10 of the calculated distance value and the distance value previously set between the ultrasonic wave generators.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the ultrasonic signals have different frequencies.

15

12. A method for detecting a position of a mobile robot in which a position of a mobile robot is detected by calculating a distance between the mobile robot and a charging device, comprising:

receiving an infrared signal and a first ultrasonic signal simultaneously
20 generated from an infrared generator and a first ultrasonic wave generator, respectively, installed at the charging device;

calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the first ultrasonic wave generator on the basis of the infrared signal and the first ultrasonic signal;

receiving a second ultrasonic wave generator installed at the charging
25 device;

calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the second ultrasonic wave generator on the basis of the second ultrasonic signal; and

detecting a position of the mobile robot on the basis of a previously distance value between the first ultrasonic wave generator and the second ultrasonic wave generator, a distance value between the first ultrasonic wave generator and the mobile robot, and the distance value between the second ultrasonic wave generator and the mobile robot.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the first ultrasonic wave generator comprises:

measuring a time at which the first ultrasonic signal has been received on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received; and

multiplying a sound velocity to the measured time.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the second ultrasonic signal is oscillated when the predetermined time elapses.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of calculating the distance between the mobile robot and the second ultrasonic wave generator comprises:

measuring a time at which the second ultrasonic signal has been received on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received; and

subtracting the predetermined time from the time at which the second ultrasonic signal has been received.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second ultrasonic signals have difference frequencies.

17. An apparatus for detecting a position of a mobile robot, wherein
5 an infrared signal and a ultrasonic signal are received, a time difference between the received infrared signal and the ultrasonic signal, and a position of a mobile robot is detected on the basis of the calculated time difference value and a distance value between ultrasonic wave generators generating the ultrasonic signals.

10

18. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

a means for measuring a time at which the ultrasonic signals have been received on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received.

15

19. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

a means for calculating a distance between the ultrasonic wave generators and the mobile robot by multiplying a sound velocity to the calculated time difference value; and

20

a means for detecting a distance and an angle between the ultrasonic wave generators and the mobile robot on the basis of the calculated distance value and the distance value previously stored between the ultrasonic wave generators.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

25

a means for detecting a distance and angle between the ultrasonic wave

generators and the mobile robot through triangulation on the basis of the calculated distance value and the distance value previously stored between the ultrasonic wave generators.

5 21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the ultrasonic signals have difference frequencies.

 22. An apparatus for detecting a position of a mobile robot in which a position of a mobile robot is detected by calculating a distance between the mobile
10 robot and a charging device, comprising:

 an infrared signal generator installed at the charging device and generating an infrared signal;

 a first ultrasonic wave oscillator installed at the charging device and oscillating a first ultrasonic signal simultaneously together with the infrared signal;

15 a second ultrasonic wave oscillator installed at the charging device and oscillating a second ultrasonic signal after the first ultrasonic signal is generated; and

 a position detector for calculating a time difference between the first and second ultrasonic signals on the basis of time when the infrared signal has been
20 received, calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the first and second ultrasonic wave generators on the basis of the calculated time difference, and detecting a position of the mobile robot on the basis of the calculated distance value and a pre-set distance value between the first and second ultrasonic wave oscillators.

25

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the position detector comprises:

a first measuring unit for receiving the infrared signal and the first ultrasonic wave signal and measuring a time at which the first ultrasonic signal has been received on the basis of the time at which the infrared signal has been received;

a first distance calculator for calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the first ultrasonic wave oscillator on the basis of the measured time by the first measuring unit;

a second measuring unit for measuring time at which the second ultrasonic signal has been received on the basis of a point when the infrared signal has been received;

a second distance calculator for calculating a distance between the mobile robot and the second ultrasonic oscillator on the basis of the time measured by the second measuring unit; and

a distance and angle calculator for detecting a distance and an angle between the mobile robot and the charging unit on the basis of the distance value between the first ultrasonic wave generator and the second ultrasonic wave generator, the distance value between the first ultrasonic wave generator and the mobile robot, and the distance value between the second ultrasonic wave generator and the mobile robot.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the charging unit further includes a plurality of ultrasonic wave generators.

25. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first and second ultrasonic signals have different frequencies.

26. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second ultrasonic wave
5 oscillator oscillates the second ultrasonic wave when a predetermined time elapses after the first ultrasonic wave is oscillated from the first ultrasonic wave oscillator.